



EARTH NIGHT!

While millions of people participated in the corporate sham that was Earth Day there was a call to more militant action: Earth Night. This call to action was an attempt to strike at the real sources of exploitation and environmental destruction in an effective manner. One such action that occurred was carried out by the Earth Night Action Group when they toppled electrical pylons belonging to the Pacific Gas & Electric (P.G.&E.) company. In their communique they stated: "Earth Night Action Group accepts responsibility for toppling major P.G.&E. powerlines from Moss Landing Power Plant between April 21st & 22nd...(attacking) P.G.&E.'s fraudulent support of global protection (and) hypocritical attempt to improve public relations...If P.G.&E.'s commitment to the earth were real, (the) Diablo Canyon (nuclear power plant) would be shut down." There were three separate incidents when pylons or transmission lines were damaged causing over 90% of Santa Cruz County to be without power for several hours.

While actions of this nature have been carried out for years in Europe, this is a relatively new strategy for radical environmentalists in North America. In West Germany clandestine groups such as Revolutionäre Handwerker have taken direct action against nuclear power plants by toppling electrical pylons and power lines. This was during a period of massive resistance against the construction of nuclear plants at Broksdorf and Wackersdorf. Along with the many militant demonstrations taking place at the site of these plants these attacks were able to contribute to the cancellation of at least one of the plants (Wackersdorf).

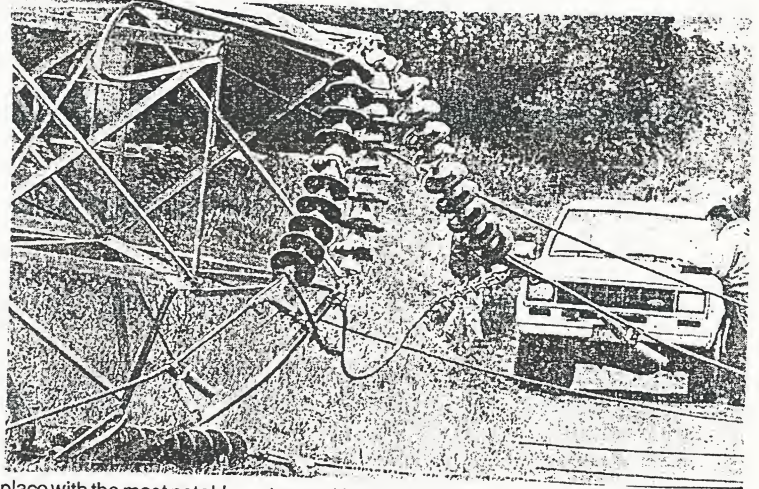
GRAPO Hungerstriker Dies

After almost 6 months the first GRAPO hungerstriker has died. Jose Manuel Sevillano Martin suffered a heart attack on May 25th at the Gregorio Maranon Hospital in Spain.

The GRAPO hungerstrike began on November 30th last year in response to the torture and dispersals of GRAPO and PCE (r) prisoners. GRAPO (First of October Revolutionary Anti-Fascist Groups) is the armed wing of the PCE (r) (Communist Party of Spain (reconstituted)) who formed in 1975. This was during a period of repression when the fascist regime of Franco was attempting to crush resistance to its rule. During this period thousands were arrested and 5 anti-fascists were executed by the government. It was on October 1st when GRAPO came into existence when they executed 4 Guardia Civil in Madrid. GRAPO carried out countless attacks against government targets throughout the late 70's and as a result a number of GRAPO guerrillas were arrested and imprisoned. There has been 2 previous hungerstrikes by GRAPO prisoners around demands that are being fought for in this current hungerstrike. During the first hungerstrike in 1981 a GRAPO member, Juan Jose Crespo Galende, died. This was the climax of the hungerstrike which ended in the GRAPO militants receiving improved prison conditions and being allowed to form

These types of actions proved to be effective because of the massive economic damage that was caused and it was virtually impossible to guard all of the pylons and power lines, consequently hardly anyone was caught. Italy has also seen these types of actions (see article on pg.2) but on a lesser scale.

Though radical environmentalists have only recently undertaken these types of actions, they have occurred in the U.S. before. In the mid 70's numerous actions took place with the most notable being the bombing of a P.G.&E. substation by the New World Liberation Front in 1978. With the resurgence of this strategy there has also been some setbacks. Last May, 3 Earth First! activists, Mark Davis, Marc Baker and Peg Millet, were arrested by the FBI during an attempt to topple a power line tower. Their group had been infiltrated by an FBI agent which lead to the arrests. A fourth person, Dave Foreman was arrested the next day and more recently a fifth person, Ilse Apslund, has been charged. This has been part of an FBI operation to infiltrate Earth First! whom they believe to be responsible for attacks on electrical pylons be-



tween 1986 and 1988.

Earth First! is better defined as a movement rather than an organisation thus the FBI has not been able to halt the activities of those involved in the radical environmental movement. Due to the autonomous (and widely varied) nature of the movement there has been countless acts of sabotage against corporate and government targets. It is in the framework of this strategy that real damage can be done against the capitalist infrastructure. Whether these tactics spread to a wider class struggle remains to be seen. (For more info about the 5 EFL activists write to: Earth First!, P.O. Box 5871, Tucson, AZ, 85703 USA.)

collectives. It was in 1989 that the 2nd hungerstrike began when the ruling PSOE (Spanish Socialist Workers Party) government began to break up the prison collectives by dispersing the GRAPO militants to other prisons. At the same time conditions for the prisoners began to worsen as visits were restricted, mail censored and threats of death were received. Many of the prisoners were physically harassed; women prisoners were brutally strip-searched, prison guards threatened to poison food and rumours of GAL (fascist death squads) executions were circulated. This 2nd hungerstrike ended after 30 days when the PSOE capitulated by stopping the dispersals, and prison conditions began to improve. This turned out to be a ruse by the PSOE to end the hungerstrike in order to diffuse growing pressure against them. Spain was in the middle of elections and the attention on the hungerstrike was casting them in an unfavourable light. When the elections were over and the PSOE still in power they began to go back to their original plans. Numerous GRAPO militants were dispersed to prisons all over Spain. It was from there that the present hungerstrike began.

The demands of the GRAPO prisoners have been simple; an end to dispersals, torture and isolation. They have demanded that they be allowed to organize in collectives, receive political literature, uncensored

mail and full visitation rights. The Spanish state has been determined to break the resistance of the prisoners by refusing to grant them any of their demands. From the onset of the hungerstrike there has been active support for the prisoners on the outside. Demonstrations have taken place all over Spain as well as in West Germany, Canada and the U.S. In Madrid the Red Cross offices were occupied for a number of weeks, West German activists occupied an information office of the European Parliament, political prisoners in the

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RARA Action

Revolutionary Anti-Racist Action (RARA) is a clandestine group in Holland that has carried out attacks in support of the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. The main targets of these attacks have been multinational corporations that have ties to or are integral parts of the apartheid structure. Some of their targets have included MAKRO (subsidiary of the Dutch multinational SHV) and Shell Oil. We have reprinted a short article from the Dutch magazine De Vrije on the recent RARA action against immigrant and refugee management. We will reprint the entire RARA communique in our forthcoming magazine.

During the night of March 18-19, RARA made itself heard again. The provincial police barracks in Arnhem and Oldenzaal were the target of arson attacks. The cause according to RARA, in an extensive communique, which was not full of the usual jargon and rhetoric, is the involvement of the provincial police in the supervision of foreigners in the interior of the country.

According to RARA "Although this is the first time that we have carried out actions against the Dutch management of refugees, we want to stress that this is in no way to be interpreted as a break with our previous political practice of the past few years." Further, the communique states that "In South Africa, racism is institutionalized in apartheid. Here in Holland, racism is entrenched in and legitimized by the laws which form the basis of the new governmental refugee policies."

RARA makes reference, among other things, to the Schengen Agreement and the Universal Declaration Of The Rights Of Man. With respect to the last: "Of course it sounds beautiful...globally it seems however that the principles and resolutions confessed to by pen and mouth serve only as a means of propaganda in the cold war. Refugees from the east have been welcomed with open arms for many years because they form a living testimony against communism. In contrast, refugees from the south are usually identified as profiteers and criminals. The result is that what is overlooked, or partially ignored, is the fact that the origin of organized refugee movement is largely a direct consequence of the power politics of the west. The flow of refugees is often deliberately created as a result of purely capitalistic actions, by groups such as the IMF, World Bank and others.

About their final objectives, RARA writes "In the final analysis, this is about a world without oppression, sexism, exploitation, poisoning and racism. This is not some pathetic credo, rather it is at the core of the type of socialism that we hold dear. The question, however, is how the progress along this path will appear to people. Contradictions will continue to increase; fewer and fewer people will have more and more of the opportunities. You would think that this would lead to a tension and even to opposition, but it is our observation that this control over spirits has become a new penitentiary".

(De Vrije)



Italian Anarchist Movement Attacked

On October 2nd, 1989, Alfredo Bonanno and Pippo Stasi were sentenced for the attempted expropriation of a jeweller's shop in Bergamo, Italy that took place on February 2nd, 1989. Their sentences were: Alfredo, 5 years and 6 months and Pippo, 4 years and 8 months.

The months prior to the sentencing saw a failed attempt by the state and capitalist press to frame the two with additional crimes that were unsolved in the town. These included two robberies, one of which involved a murder. The intended frame-up was clear from the start when, upon discovering the identities of the comrades as anarchists, police informed them that they intended to "fit them up". The press aided in the orchestration of this attack by depicting the two as "professional robbers" and as being part of the "gotha of Italian terrorism". Against this, the comrades declared themselves innocent of the fabricated charges and explained that they had carried out the expropriation on Feb. 2nd because they needed money and that, as anarchists, they felt the redistribution of wealth in a society based on social and economic inequality to be just.

Alfredo and Pippo are both well known for their involvement in the revolutionary movement. Pippo, a member of the Palermo anarchist group, has been involved in various anti-nuclear and anti-militarist struggles as well as working in student and unemployed movements. Alfredo is best known for his theoretical work and has written several books such as "From Riot To Insurrection" and "Armed Joy". He also edits and contributes articles to the Italian publications Anarchismo and ProvocAzione. The bulk of Bonanno's theoretical work has been the development of a coherent revolutionary analysis, in particular, the insurrection project.

The state's attempt to strike the revolutionary work of these comrades and their involvement in the social struggle, by burying them in prison for an extended period, failed. At the trial on Oct. 2nd, the fabricated charges against them were not introduced. This was in part due to the international support the two received.

However, on December 5th, the state once again attacked the revolutionary movement when, by orders of magistrates in Florence, police raided the homes of anarchists in Milan, Turin, Pavia, Padua,

Florence, Bergamo, Massa, Rome, Catania and Palermo. Seized during these raids was all the material for an issue of ProvocAzione as well as a list of subscribers. Shortly after, the ProvocAzione editorial group released a communique stating among other things that "they were staring state repression in the face" and that they "would continue to move in an anarchist social insurrectionalist direction against the state...". Warrants held by the police emphasized that everything be examined that might link people to the attacks on electrical pylons that occurred earlier that year. The first of these attacks referred to occurred on Sept. 7th/89 when an explosion destroyed an ENEL (state electricity company) pylon in Calambrone. Further attacks were carried out on Sept. 10th against a 60 metre high, 220,000 volt pylon and on the 13th a pylon belonging to Montedison (multinational chemical industry giant) was downed. Attacks against pylons have also occurred in Novate Mezzola where a pylon belonging to the Falck electricity company was downed and a 130,000 volt line supplying electricity to a steel works was also sabotaged.

ProvocAzione and Anarchismo have distinguished themselves by supporting these types of actions when many others including anarchists have condemned them. For this they have been the focus of state repression. Actions of this sort prove to be an effective form of attack against capital. So much so that the state has carried out its raids on the revolutionary movement in order to find out who is responsible. The attacks on the pylons have proven to be a viable form of sabotage as they do not attack deadly industries, which the pylons supply power to, directly which could cause the release of dangerous toxins and poisons. Their effectiveness lies in the amount of damage that they can cause economically by delaying or even shutting down production at the death factories. By attacking these infrastructures, capitalism's vulnerability is exposed and can provide a focus for its destruction.

Write to the imprisoned comrades:

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ITALY

Pippo Stasi
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ITALY

Piotr Siuda, Latest Victim Of The KGB

We have translated this article from the French anarchist weekly, Le Monde Libertaire. The information it gives is not as precise as we would like particularly that surrounding Siuda's death. Nonetheless we feel that it is important that this news is widely disseminated. When we receive more information we shall include it in future issues.

On the 5th of May, at around 8 o'clock in the morning, Piotr Petrovich Siuda died at the municipal hospital of Novotcherkassk. Cause of death: bodily wounds and blows.

In the evening, friends saw him leave his home and everything seemed normal. Prior to his death, Piotr Siuda gained possession of secret KGB documents on the repression of the Novotcherkassk worker movement in 1962. These documents contained the order given by the KGB to fire on a crowd, the result of this brutal repression being several hundred killed and countless arrests followed by deportations and heavy internment penalties.

Piotr Siuda was born on December 13th, 1937 in Rostov-sur-le-Don. His father, a Bolshevik, was an old road comrade of Stalin and was engaged in the revolutionary struggle at Batoumi in 1902. He died under torture in Rostov prison in 1937 and, as a result, never knew his son...

Piotr Siuda played an active role in these

struggles (at Novotcherkassk) and was himself condemned, on Sept. 12th, 1962 to 12 years imprisonment because of article 72 of the penal code of the USSR. He was eventually freed after 4 years of imprisonment and immediately started to lead an active struggle aiming to inform the public about the events of Novotcherkassk and make the government face its responsibility. He struggled for the rehabilitation of all those condemned and assembled information on the fate of the wounded. As well he attempted to ensure that those who gave the order to fire on the crowd, be judged for crimes against humanity. Siuda was also an active member of the organization "Memorial" of Rostov and of the "Association Of Victims Of Repression".

Since the 1st of May, date of the assembly of the KAS (anarcho-syndicalist confederation), Siuda was fighting for the reconstruction of an organized anarchist movement.

Here ends his course at the age of 53.

Relations Exterieures de la Federation anarchiste

British Prisons Explode...

On Sunday, April 1st, Strangeways Prison in Manchester exploded. Strangeways is an enormous Victorian prison, with extreme levels of overcrowding (up to 3 per cramped cell) and barbaric conditions (such as "slop out"). There had been rumours of an explosion at Strangeways for a while and during the months leading up to April 1st there had been isolated outbreaks of trouble. This is not at all surprising - there is only so much that the human spirit can take. The explosion at Strangeways and elsewhere was a natural, human response to brutal and savage conditions. What do the prison authorities expect when they lock up someone up for 23 hours a day in a cell designed for one but containing two or even three, with a bucket full of piss and shit, and not even a rhetorical attempt to "rehabilitate" anyone.

On that fateful Sunday morning the chapel in Strangeways was packed. Suddenly a prisoner jumped up and seized the microphone from the priest (giving him a black eye in the process). This was the trigger for the explosion of anger and ferocity that rapidly followed. The few screws were overwhelmed and driven out of the prison. The prisoners, meanwhile, set about destroying the prison, building huge barricades, attacking the hated sex-crime prisoners and also informers (the "Rule 43 Prisoners - ie. segregated for their own protection) and climbing onto the roof and waving to the crowds that assembled outside the wall. One banner on the roof told of another possible trigger: "No Poll Tax Here". This was the day after the enormous Poll Tax riot in London. The authorities can only talk of "copy-cat" riots - in reality, it is much more a case of inspiring each other to battle against similar social conditions of repression and exploitation.

The Strangeways explosion led quickly to other prisons going up in anger: Dartmoor, Brixton, Long Lartin, Pucklechurch, Armley. Often these outbreaks were inspired by prisoners transferred from Strangeways - the virus of revolt and rebellion was spreading through direct personal contacts: "yes, we had the screws!" After the Dartmoor riot, prisoners were

transferred to a prison near Bristol. Within a couple of days, that prison too had gone up and a classic banner appeared on the roof: "Dartmoor Boys On Tour". While each day brought fresh stories of prison riots, the siege at Strangeways continued with the screws only able to watch in impotent rage as their workplace was methodically demolished. Prisoners were seen on the roof sawing through massive rafter beams (after having thrown all the slates down on the screws) and occasionally there were fires within the prison. The prison authorities slowly moved on the offensive, using water cannon, buzzing by with police helicopters and continual wailing of sirens but they didn't dare move in due to the enormous barricades and numerous traps. Tory MP's called for the SAS to be sent in and there were reports of this military elite advising screws on how to retake the prison. The newspapers continually referred to the prisoners as "scum" and "animals". They were obviously worried that more people might follow their example and fight back.

On Wednesday, April 25th the screws finally broke through. For 24 days, the prison had been in the hands of the prisoners and the prisoners alone. But the battle was still not over: the five remaining still refused



Ingrid Strobl Released!

On May 10th, Ingrid Strobl was released from prison when a court in Dusseldorf found that there was insufficient evidence to prove that she participated in an attack on a Lufthansa (a West German airline) administration office in Cologne. The Lufthansa office was bombed in 1986 by the Revolutionary Cells (Revolutionäre Zellen - RZ) in protest against the airline's involvement in sex tourism and refugee deportation. According to the state prosecution, Ingrid was a member of the RZ and provided an alarm clock that was part of the bomb.

Ingrid was originally arrested in 1987 as a result of a massive police operation that targeted the radical feminist movement, particularly the anti-gene and reproductive technology section. The police operation was an attempt to find evidence that would link feminist activists with actions that had been carried out by Rote Zora and the Revolutionary Cells. Both are guerrilla groups that have been active since the early 70's and have carried out numerous attacks on West German corporate and government targets. Rote Zora, an all women's guerrilla group, has been very active against gene and reproductive technology interests. The police raids failed to uncover any substantial evidence but in order to justify the massive operation, Ingrid and Ulla Penselin were arrested. Both were charged and held under the so-called "anti-terrorist" law, paragraph 129a. This law makes membership in

a "terrorist organization" a criminal offense. Originally used against the Red Army Faction, its use has been extended to include other groups such as the RZ. As well, because of its deliberately vague wording it can and has been used to criminalize support of clandestine groups or actions. This makes the publication and distribution of information that declares support for clandestine activity illegal.



Both Ingrid and Ulla were held in prison under para. 129a which means solitary confinement, restricted visits and censored mail. All of this took place despite the fact neither had been found guilty of anything. While Ulla was eventually released due to lack of evidence, Ingrid was tried for the charges last year. The prosecution claimed that an alarm clock that she had purchased was used in the Lufthansa bombing. While Ingrid did not deny she had purchased the clock she

to come down and the screws were too scared to take them (remember that this was all taking place on a sloped roof about five stories up). At last the prisoners agreed, but on their own terms. They refused the screws' kind offer of coming down through the prison (and pass by up to 200 extremely pissed off screws) and demanded a hoist lift to the ground. And so they came down, live on the 6 o'clock news with clenched fist salutes, smiles and waves to the enormous cheering crowd outside the walls of the prison.

April is a month that the screws and the prison authorities will not forget for a long, long time. Nor will the prisoners and everyone else on the so-called "outside". April showed what is possible, that power can be smashed by determined struggle, albeit temporarily. The next few years will be interesting.

Until We Are All Free, We Are All Imprisoned
(Attack International)

GRAPO Hungerstrike *cont. from pg. 1*

U.S. have attempted gain attention for the hungerstrikers and 2 imprisoned members of the Red Army Fraction went on a solidarity fast. Despite these actions as well as countless others the PSOE has refused to back down. During the course of the hungerstrike GRAPO guerrillas executed 3 Guardia Civil to pressure the government. This failed to evoke a response. As the prisoners' health began to deteriorate, prison officials began force-feeding them. Though many doctors refused to participate in this barbaric act the force-feeding was undertaken. In response to this a GRAPO commando "Jose Crespo Galende" executed a medical chief who had been particularly brutal in the force-feeding of the prisoners. Even this failed to make the PSOE act.

As the hungerstrike enters its 7th month there appears to be no end in sight. The PSOE has remained steadfast in its refusal to grant the demands of the GRAPO prisoners. With this first death there appears to be the beginning of a long, drawn out genocide against the hungerstrikers. We encourage people to undertake whatever is within their means to help stop this. To receive more information and give solidarity write to: AFAPP de Madrid, Apartado de Correos 15220, 28080 Madrid, SPAIN.

claimed that it was given as a gift to a friend. She refused to name the individual because she did not want the same repressive state measures of 129a to happen to her friend. Because of her refusal to name the individual who received the alarm clock she was sentenced on the 9th of June, 1989 to 5 years imprisonment.

Ingrid and Ulla have both been active in the women's movement for years and worked in the anti-gene and reproductive technology movement. As a result of this they have had to endure the repression of the state as it seeks to eliminate all forms of resistance. Despite this a campaign was waged to have the court's decision appealed and on May 10th Ingrid was released. Make no mistake though about this decision. While the West German state has failed in this attempt they will continue to attack the revolutionary movements. What may seem to be a victory (and it is) does not take away from the fact that the real victories will come from a revolutionary struggle not bourgeois "justice". To Ingrid we send our joy and solidarity upon her freedom.

Solidarity Is A Weapon!

Lotta Continua Sentencings

On May 2nd, four ex-militants of Lotta Continua (Continuous Struggle) were sentenced up to 22 years for the murder of Luigi Calabresi, a police commissioner, in 1972. One of the four, Leonardo Marino, "confessed" to a Milan judge, around two years ago, that he along with Adriano Sofri, Giorgio Pietrostefano and Ovidio Bompreschi were responsible for Calabresi's death. Marino claimed that Sofri (ex-national leader of Lotta Continua) and Pietrostefano ordered the execution and Bompreschi was the one who carried out the actual shooting. All three had rejected these accusations but nonetheless were sentenced to 22 years each. Marino received an 11-year sentence.

Lotta Continua was one of the many groups that formed in the late 60's when many social conflict along with intensified national liberation struggles exploded worldwide. In Italy a growing student and worker movement began to move in direct confrontation against the State. It was out of the wildcat strikes at the FIAT autoplants in Turin that the worker-student organisation of Lotta Continua was born. It was also at this time when many violent demonstrations, wildcat strikes, factory and university occupations etc. were taking place. An autonomous workers movement, that was escaping control of the reformist trade unions, was also growing. It was in this context that the state reacted with the bombing at Piazza Fontana. In order to diffuse the growing unrest, the State utilised its own secret services and those services of certain fascists to plant a bomb in a Milanese bank on Dec. 12th, 1969 (in Piazza Fontana, a public square) that killed 16 and injured 90. This bombing was blamed on three anarchists (it wasn't until years later that it was proven that the State with fascist collaboration was responsible) one of whom was Giuseppe Pinelli, the secretary of the Anarchist Black Cross in Milan. It was during an interrogation that Pinelli was thrown from the fourth floor window of a police station. It was Calabresi who was in charge of the investigation and for many was the one responsible for Pinelli's death.

The bombing at Piazza Fontana accomplished what the Italian state hoped it would, that is create a climate of fear which would justify the quelling of the growing struggle. Nonetheless this struggle began to intensify once again in the 70's which saw the growth of Lotta Continua into one of the largest revolutionary organisations in Italy. It was during this period that open class warfare peaked with massive resistance against the State that also saw armed struggle taking place as carried out by the Red Brigades and numerous other armed groups (including Revolutionary Action, an anarchist group). In 1972, Pinelli's death was avenged when unknown persons executed Calabresi.

Marino's confession represents the latest of the *pentiti* (individuals who collaborated with the state) who have confessed to "crimes" or have implicated comrades who were active in the mass struggles that took place in the 70's (and early 80's). It was the *pentiti* who played an important part in destroying the revolutionary movements of that time. Many thousands are still in prison because of them.

No one is quite sure who killed Calabresi. There has even been speculation that fascists with State collaboration were responsible because Calabresi knew too much about Piazza Fontana. Many wanted to see Calabresi's death and whether or not the ex-Lotta Continua militants were responsible is not important. What matters after these many long years, is that they are suffering the consequences of this. It is also important to remember that Pinelli's death was avenged, regardless of who did it.

During the week of June 10th to 17th a number of Red Army Faction members were arrested in East Germany. A total of 9 were caught by East German police including Inge Viett and Susanne Albrecht as well as some who had taken part in the kidnapping and execution of the West German industrialist Hanns Martin Schleyer. We hope to have more info next issue.



Arm The Spirit is an information collective focusing on militant and revolutionary struggles. Our perspective is autonomous but we see a need to discuss and analyse all forms of left resistance in order to contribute to a revolutionary process. We welcome and encourage others to join us in our work.

La Lucha Continua!

Subscriptions for this bulletin are \$8.00 for 10 issues. We will also be publishing a magazine that will expand upon what we cover in the bulletin. At this moment we have no subscription rate for it but we hope to publish it at least twice a year. The bulletin will come out at least 10 times a year on a near monthly basis. We are also in the process of setting up a small mailorder literature service. Please send \$1 for the mailorder list. We accept cash (conceal it well) or money orders but no cheques. If sending a money order please do not put 'Arm The Spirit' just leave it blank. We look forward to hearing from you.

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No To Expo!

(Paris) Last month (May) the offices of the Bureau International des Expositions were attacked. The group of 3 women and 5 men caused over \$70,000 damage when they poured ink on office archives, broke machines and word processors and exploded tear gas canisters. The Bureau International de Expositions is the group that awards world's fairs commonly known as Expo. The city to host Expo 2000 is Hanover, West Germany which was announced June 14th. The group responsible for the attack was a German one. They phoned in a communique that stated that they planned the attack in the name of Third World countries and that world's fairs worked against the environment and served the interests of imperialism. (from the capitalist press)

Red Brigades

Though the Red Brigades (RB) in Italy had their ranks decimated in the late 70's and early 80's they still pop up every once in awhile. Some recent events have included:

Two RB guerillas who had served prison sentences for actions in the 70's were arrested near the Swiss border north of Como, Italy on April 3rd. In their possession was a supply of weapons and ammunition. Police claimed that Giorgio Giudice and Enzo Fontana were planning a robbery.

Twenty RB political prisoners held a sit in at a political prison in Novara, Italy to protest the continued solitary confinement of a fellow prisoner based on a guard's trumped up allegations. After 30 minutes of refusing to return to their cells the prison warden led 80 guards armed with firehoses, clubs and shields to clear the yard. Many prisoners suffered broken hands and serious head injuries, some were beaten on their way to the prison dispensary.

On April 19th, in Forlì, Italy, twelve members of the Fighting Communist Party (PCC) went on trial for the assassination of Christian Democratic Senator Roberto Ruffilli. The PCC, a faction of the Red Brigades, are accused of killing Ruffilli (an aid to then Prime Minister Ciriaco De Mita) at his home in 1987.

Poll Tax Rioters' Support Group

While most people know about the massive demonstration, on March 31st, against the poll tax in Britain, few are aware of all the circumstances surrounding it. The mainstream press tried to downplay the magnitude of the demo by claiming there was only 50,000 present whereas true figures put the numbers at well over 200,000. The violence that broke out was blamed by government officials and their media lackeys on a small fringe of left wing and anarchist radicals. In fact, the initial violence was instigated by the police in numerous incidents. Some of these were: a peaceful sit-down in front of Downing St. was baton-charged by the cops, four police vans drove straight into crowds of people, mounted police also charged into the crowd for no apparent reason.... Needless to say people responded by fighting back. The violence that followed was by no means aimless. Banks, expensive shops and restaurants, sports cars, jewellers, posh night-clubs, the South African Embassy were some of the many targets that were hit. Small shops and businesses were unscathed, expensive cars were trashed but common ones weren't, the Aer Lingus (Irish Air) offices weren't touched, perhaps a growing awareness of Britain's role in Northern Ireland? In reality all walks of life participated in the rioting, in an explosion of frustration against years of Thatcher's attacks on the poor and working class. As a result, 341 people were arrested for offenses ranging from obstructing police to criminal damage. A support group has been formed to help people pay fines, lawyers etc. We encourage people to lend solidarity. Send money to:

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